GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1518
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008
NON- ISSUANCE OF LICENCES
Gangwar Shri Santosh Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) and Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) have jointly formulated any plan determining the direction of non-issuance of licences to new operators without providing adequate spectrum to the existing operators;

(b) if so, whether such move would put a ban on the entry of new operator;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the benefits likely to be accrued to the mobile sector in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (d) On 13.04.2007, Government sought recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on certain terms & conditions of Access Services Licences including the issue of limiting the number of Access providers in each service area. In its recommendations dated 28.08.2007, on `review of license terms & conditions and capping of number of access providers`, TRAI has inter-alia recommended that there should be no cap on the number of access provider in any service area which has been accepted by the Government. Accordingly, Government is granting new Unified Access Services (UAS) licences in all service areas in the country. Allocation of spectrum to the access services licensees is subject to availability.

Grant of new UAS licences will ensure rapid expansion of tele-density and transformation of the telecommunications sector in a time bound manner to a greater competitive environment in both urban and rural areas.